

*Gifts
Foundations*

Proposal to the Old Dominion Foundation

EXPANSION OF THE LIBRARY OF NEW COLLEGE, SARASOTA, FLORIDA

In an institution where the emphasis is placed upon independent study rather than on formal classroom involvement, the library becomes the focal point of the college program. To support such a program at New College, it has been necessary to build the Library collection on two levels, the first to provide a solid foundation of materials basic to the various disciplines, and the second to provide a wide variety of materials for advanced research.

The acquisition of library materials was started February 1, 1963, and it has continued at an accelerated pace. During the past three years, the collection has grown to 27,000 volumes. These include 1,507 volumes of reference material, 1,173 bound volumes of journals, 452 government documents (cataloged), and an antiquarian collection of out of print material of approximately 2,000 volumes.

Because the nature of the New College program dictates a heavy reliance on library materials, some of the elements having implications for library service should be mentioned. Students at the college are select in the sense that they have shown evidence of the enthusiasm and self-discipline necessary for independent study. For this reason, one problem frequently faced by college libraries is absent at New College: the students have demonstrated no resistance to reading and using the Library. This places a greater responsibility on the Library to make every effort to meet the needs of students who are sincerely interested in learning.

The diversity of interest manifested in student research projects, too, places unusual demands on the growing library collection. Independent study periods alternate with classroom terms. With the approval and guidance of faculty advisors, students are permitted to select any reasonable project for study. This involves delving deeply into the topic, and the demand for library materials in depth is

spread over wide areas. Since the Library has not yet reached a sufficient size to support such a program, the acquisition policy is frequently dictated by the immediate needs rather than a long range plan.

Although size has little relation to the value of a college library collection, the immediate goal of New College Library is an increase from its present holdings to 50,000 carefully selected volumes without which it cannot begin to give adequate support to the institutional program. The ultimate goal for the Library is 300,000 volumes. When this number has been reached, it is intended to balance the acquisition of material with the discards of useless or outdated material. This figure was selected because New College is isolated from larger library resources, and it is thought that fewer volumes would cause deficiencies in the college program.

Common to most new ventures are the problems of time, space and money. New College Library in a relatively short span of time has acquired a sound nucleus for the collection. The problem of space will be ameliorated in the fall of 1966 when the Library will expand into the whole of College Hall which it is presently sharing with the dining room, some faculty offices, and classrooms. There remains the problem of money.

To set up a library for any new institution of higher learning is a formidable undertaking; to set up one to meet the needs of both an undergraduate curriculum and a program of independent study, staggers the imagination. Although the present budget allocates \$50,000.00 for books, a request has been made to raise this to \$75,000.00 for 1966/67. A smaller number of students engaged in independent study will need a larger and richer library collection than will a greater number of students who are pursuing conventional undergraduate work which

is oriented to the textbook-lecture method of education. It is, therefore, not valid to assume that a small student body can get along with a small number of books. The nature of the curriculum, not the size of student enrollment, dictates the type of use the library will receive.

Scholarly journals, both current issues and back files, are necessary in any college program, but a college with an independent study program relies even more heavily on such journals. The acquisition policy of the Library is presently being directed toward securing back files of these journals.

Two of our most important and immediate needs in the area of the natural sciences are (1) Beilstein. Handbuch der Organischen Chemie, fourth edition. Berlin, 1918-1965. We have learned of an available set including the main work through the third supplement, v. 6, pts. 1 and 2 (all published to date). The cost of this monumental set is \$6,060.50, but its value for research in organic chemistry cannot be estimated. (2) Biological Abstracts. Philadelphia, 1927-1963 (when our own subscription started), vols. 1-44. This set is available for \$4,695.00.

We have been very fortunate in some of the gifts of books we have received. We were given a complete set of Chemical Abstracts from 1924 to 1961. Our own subscription started in 1964, leaving us without volumes for 1962 and 1963. To fill this gap would require \$1,800.00.

Much essential research material is now available on microfilm. Although the sets mentioned above are most useful in physical volumes, this is not true in the case of many other journals for which we have repeated and increasing requests. Some of these most needed in the area of the social sciences are The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology, v. 1-68 (1906-1964) at a cost of \$242.00 on microfilm; the Journal of Experimental Psychology, v. 1-53 (1916-1963) for \$191.00 on

microfilm; and Psychological Reviews, v. 1-70 (1894-1963) for \$279.00 on microfilm.

Under the policy recently established by Xerox, Corp., for University Microfilms, many of the ~~scholarly journals~~^{serials} in all fields are now available on microfilm for much less money than would be required to obtain the back files in the physical volumes. For approximately \$7,000.00, it would be possible to acquire files of many of these which we badly need including: the New York Times, the Atlantic Monthly (\$1,150.00), Harper's Magazine (\$1,336.00), Kenyon Review (\$93.50), PMLA (\$440.00), and Sewanee Review (\$286.00).

Since the students have shown sincere and continuing interest in the study of religion, a professor in this field will join the faculty of New College next year. Two journals of value to this area are the Journal of Biblical Literature and the Journal of Bible and Religion. The complete runs in physical volumes of these would come to \$2,250.00 for the first, and \$465.00 for the second.

The acquisition of books, however, is still the most important role for the Library. In the area of the humanities alone, we have deferred a list of titles amounting to \$27,000.00. This list is entirely composed of out of print or reprinted items. Some which will have special value for the third level students next year are the Chaucer Society Texts (\$1,000.00), the Scottish Text Society (\$932.00), and the Early English Text Society (\$750.00).

The initial impetus of work, money, and imagination has launched New College Library on a promising start. In June, 1965, Dr. Stuart Baillie/^{Director} of the University of Denver Library (now Director of the Library at San Jose College, California) was asked to serve as Consultant to New College Library. Although he has not submitted his final report, his verbally expressed opinion of the progress of the Library and the plans for the future were extremely favorable.

It must be remembered, however, that New College Library has just made a start and much is needed before we can attain even our immediate goals. If the unique type of educational opportunity envisioned by its founders for New College is to succeed, the importance of the Library cannot be underestimated. Without strong financial support, especially during its formative years, the Library will not be able to approach the standards of other prestige institutions. Without an outstanding Library to support its program, New College will not be able to achieve the standards of excellence which have been set for it.